

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION INR-10

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DIRNSA FT MEADE MD IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 KABUL 3511

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOS

3.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON AFGHAN CABINET

REF: KABUL 3423

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC DATA NOW AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY
ON THE MEMBERS OF THE AFGHAN CABINET ANNOUNCED MAY:

NUR MOHAMMAD TARAHI--PRIME MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. (BIO REPORTED KABUL 3372).

BABRAK KARMAL--VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND
VICE PRIME MINISTER. KARMAL (FREQUENTLY KNOWN SIMPLY AS BABRAK)
WAS BORN ABOUT 1929 NEAR KABUL. HE IS THE SON OF A GENERAL
AND POSSIBLY A DISTANT RELATIVE OF DAOUD. HE WAS A STUDENT

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AGITATOR WHILE ATTENDING KABUL UNIVERSITY AND SPENT FIVE YEARS
IN JAIL (1952-56). AFTER HIS RELEASE HE COMPLETED HIS LAW
DEGREE AND BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH MIR AKBAR KHAIBAR, THE
COMMUNIST LEADER WHOSE MURDER APRIL 17 WAS THE FIRST CLEAR
SIGN OF TROUBLE TO COME (KABUL 3142). APPROXIMATELY
1960 HE BECAME A CLOSE FRIEND (LOVER) OF ANAHITA RATEBZADAH,
NOW MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND IN 1965 HE WAS ELECTED TO

PARLIAMENT. IN 1965 HE WAS CHOSEN AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AT ITS FOUNDING CONGRESS. IN 1967 HE JOINED WITH KHAIBAR IN OPPOSITION TO THE TARAKI GROUP (KHALQ) TO FORM PARCHAM. HE WAS NOTED AS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE WITH CLOSE CONTACTS WITH WALI KHAN AND THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY IN PAKISTAN. IN 1973 HE LED "THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION IN AFGHAN HISTORY" TO PROTEST THE HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT WITH IRAN. BABRAK WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN COMMUNIST LEADERS ARRESTED BY THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 25 (KABUL 3227).

HAFIZULLAH AMIN--VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AMIN WAS BORN IN PAGHMAN IN 1928. AS EARLY AS 1959 HE WAS CONSIDERED A LEFTIST AGITATOR. AMIN HAS A MASTERS DEGREE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION FROM COLUMBIA (1958) AND RETURNED TO COLUMBIA (1963-65) FOR TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS OF EDUCATION. BOTH SOJOURNS WERE FINANCED BY USAID GRANTS. AMIN WAS ASSOCIATED WITH TARAKI IN THE MID-SIXTIES AND IN THE BITTER FACTIONALISM BETWEEN KHALQ AND PARCHAM IN 1967 WAS ACCUSED BY PARCHAMISTS OF BEING A CIA AGENT. AS A MEMBER OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, AMIN WAS OCCASIONALLY OUTSPOKEN AGAINST US ACTIVITIES

IN AFGHANISTAN. AMIN WAS AMONG THOSE COMMUNISTS ARRESTED BY THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 25.

CAPTAIN MOHAMMAD ASLAM--VICE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF SECRET

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COMMUNICATIONS. (SEE KABUL 3350)

COLONEL ABDUL QADER--MINISTER OF DEFENSE. (SEE STATE 110074 AND USDAO KABUL 84-6-800-0038-78.

NRR AHMAD (NUR) (PANJWAI)--MINISTER OF INTERIOR. AHMAD OR NR OR PANJWAI IS THE SON OF A WEALTHY LANDLORD IN THE KANDAHAR AREA. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE A UNIVERSITY GRADUATE, SPEAKS ENGLISH, AND WAS A MINOR OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIOR TO HIS ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT IN 1965. IN 1968 HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH BABRAK KARMAL AND THE PARCHAM PARTY. IN PARLIAMENT HE TOOK A HARD COMMUNIST LINE, BUT OUR BIO DATA STATES ENIGMATICALLY) THAT HE MAY BE MORE TRACTABLE AND OPEN-MINDED THAN OTHER COMMUNISTS.

SULTAN ALI KESHTMAN--MINISTER OF PLANNING. KESHTMAN WAS BORN CA. 1935. IN 1966 HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (AN EARLIER INCARNATION OF KHALQ). IN 1965 HE RAN FOR A LOWER HOUSE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT BUT LOST THE ELECTION. IN 1967 HE HELD THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL IN THE ECONOMICS SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES. HIS SISTERS HAVE

BEEN EARLY SUPPORTERS OF DR. ANAHITA RATEBRADAH, THE PRESENT
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

ABDUL KARIM MESAQ--MINISTER OF FINANCE. (NO BIO DATA).

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 KABUL 3511

CINCPAC

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOs

DR. SALEH MOHAMMAD ZARAY -- MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. DR.
ZARAY WAS A GRADUATE OF THE KABUL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL FACULTY
WHERE HE WAS IN THE TOP OF HIS CLASS ALL SEVEN YEARS.
HE WAS A CANDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT FROM KANDAHAR IN THE 1959
ELECTIONS. HE WAS APPARENTLY ARRESTED SOMETIME DURING THE
CAMPAIGN. AT THAT TIME HE WAS REPORTED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE
"CENTRAL COMMITTEE-BABRAK GROUP."

A SECOND REPORT INDICATED THAT DR. ZARAY SOMETIME AT THE END
OF 1969 TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE KHALQ PARTY ON
GROUNDS THAT THE PARTY HAD NOT PROTESTED TO THE GOVERNMENT
AGAINST HIS ARREST. HE AT THAT TIME SUGGESTED THAT HAFIZULLAH
AMIN (FORMER KHAL Q CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER) SHOULD HAVE BEEN
ASKED BY THE PARTY TO RESIGN FROM PARLIAMENT IN PROTEST AGAINST
HIS (DR. ZARAY'S ARREST. HIS RESIGNATION REPORTEDLY WEAKENED
THE PARTY IN THE KANDAHAR AREA. HE IS BELIEVED SUBSEQUENTLY
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TO HAVE RESUMED HIS KHALQ PARTY AFFILIATION. ZARAY IS BROTHER-IN-LAW OF KABUL UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, PIER MOHAMMAD ZARAY.

ABDUL HAKIM SHARAYEE--MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL. SHARAYEE IN 1962 WAS A SECOND YEAR STUDENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM, FACULTY OF LETTERS. AT THAT TIME THERE WAS SOME SUGGESTION HE WAS AN INFORMANT OF THE AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES. AT THAT SAME TIME HE TOLD A SOURCE THAT HE WAS ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THAT HE EXPECTED SOME DAY THEREBY TO BE AN IMPORTANT LEADER. IN 1963 HE REPORTEDLY WAS SENT TO THE USSR FOR FURTHER STUDY. IN 1968 SHARAYEE WAS REPORTED TO BE A VERY ACTIVE COMMUNIST WHO WAS ENGAGED IN STIRRING UP CONFLICT BETWEEN UZBEKS AND PUSHTUNS AT SAR-E-PUL, NEAR MAZAR-E-SHARIF. AT THAT TIME HE WORKED IN THE AFGHAN ENCYCLOPEDIA DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. AT THIS SAME TIME ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTED THAT HE WAS ATTENDING REGULAR COMMUNIST PARTY MEETINGS AND INVOLVED IN DISSEMINATING PARTY PROPAGANDA AND "ANTI-ISLAMIC IDEAS." SHARAYEE WAS ONE OF THE COMMUNISTS ARRESTED BY THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 25.

DR. SHAH WALI (ALEKOZAI)--MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH. THE LAST NAME ALEKOZAI ESTABLISHES HIM AS A PUSHTUN FROM THE KANDAHAR AREA. WALI GRADUATED FROM THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF KABUL UNIVERSITY AND WAS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL IN JALALABAD. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED SOME TRAINING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AT THE TIME OF THE COUP HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF KABUL UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S HOSPITAL. WALI WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN COMMUNISTS ARRESTED BY THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 25.

GHULAM DASTIGIR PANJSHIRI--MINISTER OF EDUCATION. PANJSHIRI WAS FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF CENSORSHIP, RADIO AFGHANISTAN (1963-65) AND DIRECTOR OF LITERARY

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PRIZES , MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE (1968). HE WAS IMPRISONED DURING THE 1969 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FOR "INSULTING THE KING" AND WAS RELEASED IN 1972. BEFORE HIS ARREST HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH KHAIBAR AND BABRAK KARMAL, BUT EVIDENTLY WHILE IN PRISON HE RESIGNED FROM THE PARCHAM PARTY IN WHICH HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN 1970, PANJSHIRI AND A COUSIN FORMED A SPLINTER GROUP CALLED DEMOCRATIC KHALQ KARGARI AFGHANISTAN. HE WAS ONE OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN ARRESTED ON APRIL 25.

MOHAMMAD HASSAN BAREK SHAFII (SHAFI'E) -- MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE. A "LEADING AFGHAN POET", SHAFI'E WAS THE EDITOR OF THE THEN NEW PUBLICATION "KHALQ" IN 1966, AND WAS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY IN THE CARTOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES FROM 1960 TO 1967. HE ALSO EDITED "PASHTUN JAGH" MAGAZINE AND WAS DIRECTOR FOR "PAYAME EMRAZ" IN 1965. IN 1968 HE WENT TO WORK AT THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE IN AN UNSPECIFIED POSITION. DURING THE SAME YEAR HE BECAME A SECRETARY OF THE PARCHAM CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HAVING STAYED WITH PARCHAM AFTER THE TARAKI SPLIT. DURING A 1966 CONVERSATION WITH TARAKI AND SHAFI'E, EMBASSY OFFICERS REPORTED THAT TARAKI WAS VERY SOLICITOUS OF SHAFI'E, AND THAT HE CONSULTED WITH HIM PRIOR TO ANSWERING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH SHAFI'E'S LANGUAGES ARE SUPPOSEDLY LIMITED TO FARSI AND PUSHTO, THESE OFFICERS BELIEVED HE COULD FOLLOW MOST OF THEIR ENGLISH CONVERSATION.

SULAIMAN LAEQ--MINISTER OF RADIO AND TELEVISION. SEE KABUL 3392.

ISMAIL DANESH--MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES: DANESH IS 37 YEARS OLD, A GRADUATE OF HABIBIA HIGH SCHOOL AND THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING OF KABUL UNIVERSITY. HE SPENT THREE AND A HALF YEARS IN THE U.S. IN THE LATE 1960'S -- EARLY 1970'S RECEIVING A BS AND MS IN MINING FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA. U.S. TRAINING, DANESH SPENT AN ADDITIONAL THREE YEARS
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IN MOSCOW, WHERE HE RECEIVED A SECOND MASTER'S DEGREE. DANESH HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ISHPUSHTA COAL MINES AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SCIENTIFIC RECORDS IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES. MOST RECENTLY HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT AT POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE. ACCORDING TO HIS BROTHER, AN EMBASSY FSL, HIS CLOSE FRIENDS ARE NUR MOHAMMAD TARAKI, HAFIZULLAH AMIN AND SULTAN ALI KESHTMAND, ALSO NAMED TO THE CABINET. DANESH IS A MEMBER OF KHALQ.

LT COLONEL MOHAMMAD RAI--MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. (NO BIO DATA).

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 KABUL 3511

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOs

MOHAMMAD MANSUR HASHIMI--MINISTER OF WATER AND POWER.
MOHAMMAD MANSUR HASHIMI IS THE SON OF MUHAMMAD HASHIMI; BORN
KHASH, JURM, 1934. PREVIOUS OCCUPATION WAS A SCIENCE TEACHER
IN THE TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE. FROM 1956-1960 HE ATTENDED
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT; IN MAY 1963 HE APPLIED FOR STUDY
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR AN 18-MONTH PROGRAM; VISA GRANTED
AUGUST 1963 FOR TRAVEL TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.
OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT HE MET WEEKLY AT THE HOME OF ONE
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIAL FOR COMMUNIST CELL MEETINGS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1966.

PROFESSOR MAHMOOD SUMAH--MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION. SUMAH
IS A PROFESSOR IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE. HE IS EITHER A
SYMPATHIZER OR MEMBER OF THE KHALQ PARTY. HE MAINTAINS CONTACT
WITH KNOWN PARTY MEMBERS.

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DR. ANAHITA RATEBZADAH--MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. BORN
ABOUT 1929 IN KABUL, SHE ATTENDED NURSES SCHOOL IN CHICAGO
1951-53, AND MEDICAL SCHOOL AT KABUL UNIVERSITY. SHE BECAME THE
LOVER OF BABRAK KARMAL ABOUT 1960 AND, WHEN ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT
IN 1967, WAS ASSOCIATED WITH KARMAL AND NUR AHMAD (NUR) AS
ONE OF THE "COMMUNIST TRIUMVIRATE IN PARLIAMENT." IN 1973
SHE WAS REPORTED TO BE ON THE PARCHAM PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

ABDUL QADUS GHORBANDI--MINISTER OF COMMERCE. IN 1974 GHORBANDI
WAS A MEMBER OF THE PARCHAM CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND A CLOSE

FRIEND OF BABRAK KARMAL. WE HAVE NOTHER INFORMATION AT THIS TIME.

NIZAMUDDIN TAHZIB--MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS. TAHZIB IS FROM KUNDUZ, BORN APPRIMIMATELY 1935. IN THE EARLY 1960'S TAHZIB TAUGHT AT HABIBIA COLLEGE AND AND AT THE IBN SINA LYCEUM HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE ISLAMIC FACULTY OF KABUL UNIVERSITY. LATER HE WORKED FOR KABUL RADIO AND THEN TOOK A JOB WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WHERE HE WORKED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND WAS A CELL MEMBER OF SOME BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. IN 1966 HE WAS REPORTED TO ATTEND REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS AT THE HOME OF NUR MOHAMMAD TARAHI. AT THAT TIME HE WAS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN PARTY TRAINING. IN 1970 HE WAS REPORTED TO BE BACK AT THE TEACHERS INSTITUTE AND KNOWN TO BE A GOOD FRIEND OF RAI SAMI'I, BAREQ SHAFI'I, BABRAK KARMAL AND SULAIMAN LAEQ, AND HOLDING A PRIMARY PARTY POSITION. ELIOT

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